

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner now rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,681,260 to Ueda et al. (hereinafter “Ueda”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,958,577 to Biglieri et al. (hereinafter “Biglieri”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,594,517 to Nevo (hereinafter “Nevo”). Furthermore, the Examiner repeats the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda in view of Biglieri.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least the reasons set forth below. However, independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify their distinguishing features.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite:

position detecting means for detecting position of the capsule endoscope,

wherein ...the position detecting means detects the position of the capsule endoscope, and the moving means controls the movement of the examination table in a corresponding manner to the position of the capsule endoscope.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite:

wherein the magnetic-field generating member includes at least one magnetic coil, the magnetic-field generating means is controlled such that a magnetic field is-intermittently applied as a pulse signal

The amendments to claims 1 and 8 are fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the original disclosure by way of the present amendment to claims 1 and 8.

Regarding claim 1, the position of the capsule endoscope is detected using a magnetic unit. Then, based on the position detection result, the table drive unit is controlled

to automatically move the examination table, such that the capsule endoscope is guided to a desired position (see, e.g., the specification at page 15). Neither Ueda, Biglieri nor Nevo disclose or suggest such features.

With regard to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), independent claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the cited references because neither the Ueda patent, the Biglieri patent nor the Nevo patent, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest a capsule endoscope system having the features discussed above and recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is allowable.

With regard to claim 8, the magnetic field is applied as a pulse signal, so that, when the pulse signal is applied, the capsule endoscope can be moved and supplied with power, and when the pulse signal is not applied, the position of the endoscope can be detected using the action of the magnetic coil included in the endoscope itself.

In detecting the position of the endoscope, if a magnetic field is externally applied, the magnetic field is overlaid on the action of the position-detecting magnetic coil of the endoscope itself, resulting in a significant decrease in position detecting precision. To eliminate such a problem, the capsule endoscope system of claim 8 applies the external magnetic field as a pulse signal.

With regard to claim 8, at paragraph [09d] of the Official Action, the Examiner has cited column 34, line 66 to column 35, line 16 of Ueda as teaching the magnetic field being intermittently applied.

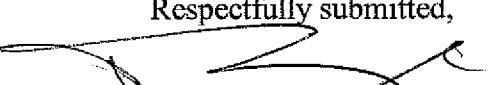
Ueda describes, in column 34, line 66 to column 35, line 16, magnetic field change that occurs when the capsule endoscope is traveled in the large intestine. Here, in a straight part of the intestine, an alternating current power source is connected to the

electromagnetic coil to generate an alternating magnetic field, causing rotary or reciprocating rotary motion of the endoscope. While in a bent part of the intestine, a direct current power source is connected to the electromagnetic coil to generate a stationary magnetic field. That is, Ueda is designed to control the generation of magnetic fields to allow the endoscope to smoothly move in the large intestine, but is not designed to apply a magnetic field as a pulse signal, so as to move or supply power to the capsule endoscope when the pulse signal is applied, and to detect the endoscope position when the pulse signal is not applied, as in the capsule endoscope system of claim 8.

With regard to the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), independent claim 8 is not rendered obvious by the cited references because neither the Ueda patent nor the Biglieri patent, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest a capsule endoscope system having the features discussed above and recited in independent claim 8. Accordingly, claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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